

Estamos Juntos



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MOZAMBIQUE GETS NEW DESIGNER RICE

The first International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)-bred rice variety especially designed for Mozambique – **Makassane** – has been approved for release.

Makassane has the same yields as the leading local variety but it has better grain quality and is resistant to local diseases.

If better varieties like **Makassane** can be more widely adopted, Mozambique could become both self sufficient in rice and a rice exporter.

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U.S. Ambassador Organizes a Workshop with Ciara and Young Mozambican Women Leaders

On June 6, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Leslie Rowe organized a workshop at her residence in Maputo, with renowned American R&B singer Ciara and more than 20

young women who represent student organizations, civil society, and alumni of U.S. government exchange programs.

During the workshop, Ciara told her own story, shared messages of women's empowerment

that often are featured as themes in her music, spoke of the importance of self-respect, positive relationships, and emphasized the need for women to take greater individual responsibility for their own health, including their sexual and reproductive health. She then answered questions about the U.S., culture and values, the situation of women in the U.S.,

and how to achieve personal goals.

After the encounter with youth, Ciara joined a reception with more than 100 Mozambican new generation musicians. In an informal setting,

the participants had the chance to meet and talk with the singer, take photos, and hear brief messages from Ciara and Ambassador Rowe. Ciara and another U.S. musician, Fat Joe, performed on July 5 in a concert at the National Stadium in



Ambassador Leslie Rowe with Ciara and a group of young Mozambican women leaders

Zimpeto, organized by private company Moz-Celeb.

Among the participants in the events with Ciara were Rufas, Kapa Dech, W-Tofo (who recently performed in Beyoncé's latest music video), Fabricio Sabat, Litos, Ziqo, Nelson Nhangungwe, Gabriela, Mr. Arssen, Mc Roger, and many others.

Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank was recently quoted as saying that "economic creativity must be the next step in North Africa's spring." Perhaps we might say that it should be the next step in the entire continent's spring. It is abundantly clear that economic concerns and lack of sufficient economic opportunity is on everyone's mind these days, including both the U.S. and Mozambique. And neither the problem nor one of its most immediate solutions is new. A few weeks ago I had the chance to participate in a workshop in Maputo about the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a U.S. law which provides favorable trade conditions to African countries who meet certain

standards of economic freedom, political openness, and respect for human and civil rights. I was struck at how many untapped opportunities exist under AGOA that Mozambique could take advantage of. Mozambique was one of the first countries to qualify for AGOA, and currently exports a few goods under the program. As Mozambique, like many countries around the world, considers its strategy to overcome poverty during challenging economic times, trade will be the foundation for economic growth, and the U.S. very genuinely wants to be an important trade partner. We hope that the recent AGOA workshop here as well as the AGOA Forum in Lusaka, and increased attention to the possibilities that AGOA offers will open new doors for increased trade between our nations, as well as increased exports to other key markets.

Leslie Rowe

Pebane Woman's Day Fair

Something unusual was happening. All along the normally sleepy boulevard people were on the move. Through the rapidly increasing warmth of the early morning crowds of brightly dressed people streamed towards the Heroes' Square. One could feel their excitement and anticipation. Sometimes calling loudly they greeted each other as they hurried, afraid to miss an important event and not wanting to be the last to arrive.



The main entrance to the Pebane fair - Photo by: Lynn Boyd



An aspect of the fair - Photo by: Lynn Boyd

Though the day was a Sunday, these people were not on their way to church. It was April 7, a national holiday, Mozambican's Woman Day. Everyone knew that this year's celebration was rumored to be one of the most extraordinary Woman's Day events Pebane had ever seen. But this year it also included a community fair organized by ADRA Mozambique and sponsored by USAID as part of ongoing development projects in the province of Zambezia. The local government was represented by both the Administrator of Pebane District and a representative of the Provincial Health Directorate. It was a perfect time to demonstrate to the greater community what those development programs were all about and to increase their impact through activities such as health screening and education.

The Woman's Day Fair, as it came to be called, was even more successful than its planners thought possible. At least 3 thousand people attended and learned about things from conservation farming techniques to family planning, the importance of good nutrition and how diseases such as malaria and HIV are transmitted. In addition, many individuals were screened for hypertension; HIV/AIDS and body mass. Farmers were also able to sell produce and local tradesmen made good use of the occasion to sell takeaways and locally produced crafts. Plans are already being made for next year's fair. But by that time, many more will know what to expect and the activities at the fair will be greatly broadened. Local entrepreneurs will be able to plan production to take advantage of the greater market potential which results from influx of visitors and locals.

Leaders Champion Positive Changes in their Community



Edna Venacio and her husband

Ogumaniha SCIP Zambézia is a 5-year integrated project funded by USAID with interventions in HIV prevention, family planning and water, sanitation and hygiene among others. Some leaders are championing behaviors that promote good health and prevent diseases by their personal example.

Edna Venacio, 44 married to Medson Bire, from Kamwendo Milange is a mother of six children. After she almost lost her life during her seventh pregnancy, with encouragement from her husband, she underwent tubal ligation. Now a grand-mother, she has been mobilizing other women to take on modern family planning methods. "Today I am a happy and healthy woman and share my experience with other women who want to learn more about options that promote healthy fami-

lies" she said with smiles.

40-year old Hortência Balança is the chairperson of Gradassi village Community Leadership Council in Morrumbala district. She is a very active and dynamic woman who teaches others on how to prevent HIV infection. When she started to work as a volunteer she was unable to read. She enrolled in adult literacy program and now is able to read and write. When she teaches



Hortência Balança

adults about HIV prevention she usually begins with transmission with contaminated instruments such as razor blades, proceeds to mother-to-child transmission and gradually builds up to unprotected sex, dexterously demonstrating the use of condom - going through the critical steps of negotiating with the male partner, checking to ensure the

condom has not expired, how to wear it and disposal after use. She allows her audience to ask questions to clear any doubt that may exist on transmission and prevention of HIV & AIDS. "I am happy to be part of this group as I have learned a lot, but happier because of positive behavior change I have seen in people", she said.

Jorge Tomussene Botão is the community leader of Chingandombe, Luabo, Chinde. Prior to the implementation of Ogumaniha project in this community of 205 people, the community did not have a protected

water supply source and the sanitation condition was very poor. The participatory hygiene and sanitation methods introduced by the project have achieved positive results thanks to the community leader, who adopted strong measures in the community to make the zone free of open defecation and promote the construction of latrines, bathrooms, dishwasher and landfills in the community. Jorge said: "I will expel from the community any family that will not construct a latrine and follow good hygiene and sanitation practices. New residents must build a latrine before they build their house". With the measures supported by Jorge and implemented by the community, today all the families live in a cleaner environment for all.



Latrine and tip-tap in Chingandombe

Let's Hear it for Sustainable Tourism:

Mozambique safeguards livelihoods and creates economic opportunities by protecting the world's most biologically important lake



Robert Layng and the WWF team at the launch event. USAID and WWF collaborated closely with the government of Mozambique to make the Reserve a reality.

Photo by: Christian Smith

Following on the heels of a vibrant display of traditional music and dance, the Mozambican Environment Minister, Dr. Alcinda de Abreu, rose to address a crowd of more than two hundred gathered in the lakeside town of Metangula to celebrate the creation of the Lake Niassa Reserve. “Hoye, Lago Niassa. Hoye, turismo sustentavel”, she cried with visible pride and enthusiasm. “Let’s hear it for Lake Niassa. Let’s hear it for sustainable tourism” (roughly translated) came the equally enthusiastic response from the crowd. The crowd had good reason to celebrate. With the

creation of the Lake Niassa Reserve, Mozambique is protecting the species and natural habitats of the most bio-diverse freshwater lake on earth while simultaneously supporting fishermen’s livelihoods and laying a path for broad-based growth in sustainable tourism and related sectors.

With upwards of 1,000 species of fish, Lake Niassa is the richest body of freshwater on the planet. Ninety-nine of its species are found only in this lake and include cichlids, *ussipa*, lake salmon, and tilapia, vital sources of livelihood and protein for the lakeshore fishermen. As the U.S. chargé d’Affaires, Christine Elder, commented in her remarks at the launch celebration, “The crystal blue waters of the lake and the diversity of life that they contain are a local, national, regional and global treasure and can increasingly serve as an economic engine of this area by attracting tourists...The new reserve will foster both fishing and tourism and improve the planning and management on the lake.”



Chargé d’Affaires Christine Elder planting a tree in celebration of the Reserve’s launch

Photo by: Christian Smith

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Learning to Transform Lives



Applicants from the Munhava neighborhood waiting to register for the application process.

enable these young people to gain 21st Century skills, essential knowledge, and positive attitudes that they will use to improve their lives, secure quality jobs or start businesses, and create positive futures.

Ranging from 14 to 17 years old, they behaved like ordinary teenagers – smiling, giggling, and sticking close to their friends. But these young people have life stories that are anything but ordinary. Their outward appearances mask experiences of trauma, loss, hunger, disease, and extreme poverty. Of the group, all are vulnerable. Four lost their mothers, eleven lost their fathers, and fourteen lost both parents. Some live with aunts and uncles, some with older siblings, and some with grandparents. One fourteen year old boy lives alone. They have seen suffering and hardship that few others can even imagine, and they know sadness and desperation. Their dreams and desires are simple; they just want to have a chance to create a better future for themselves and their families.

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Let's Hear It for Sustainable Tourism...

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Antonio João Cecílio Mtambo, from the community of Chuanga, is one of the local fishermen who are already experiencing tangible livelihood benefits as a result of the improved management practices and employment opportunities the Reserve is creating. Mr. Mtambo used to depend on fine-meshed nets that destroyed the natural habitat of the lake and killed juvenile fish. Now he is a member of a Community Fisheries Management Committee, one of seven already established through the creation of the Lake Niassa Reserve. He is also involved in patrol activities that are regularly conducted by trained rangers through a joint patrolling scheme with the Mozambican Navy, using boats and equipment donated by the U.S. State Department and Department of Defense. Commenting on his experience with the Reserve, Mr. Mtambo said: "Some good experiences in life come with time. I used to struggle to provide for my family... the situation here was so bad that one could stand for hours in the lake and find almost nothing. But now it's like magic has happened: we catch fish big enough for ourselves and to sell in the big markets like Lichinga...only this year I managed to buy three new nets with money generated from the fish."

Tourism is already contributing to community development by providing twenty-three high-paying, local jobs at the M'buna Bay Lodge located in Nkhlongue community near the Reserve's southern end. Employees are gaining valuable skills in resort management, cooking and construction, while earning much needed income for investments in health, education, and their community. It does not take much time in Nkhlongue to gain an appreciation of residents' enthusiasm and expectations of a better future ahead. It comes out in conversation, but you also it on their faces. As with the dancers and speakers who attended the Lake Niassa Reserve launch event, their smiles tell the story.



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Learning to Transform Lives

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During their eight-month journey they worked four hours each day in teams under the guidance of carrying professional learning facilitators using computers with Internet access to carry out a complex series of learning projects that integrated important topics including healthy choices, gender roles and perspectives, computers and network management, basic numeracy and literacy strengthening, professional networking, financial literacy and communication. Each learning project culminated in a youth-created product that demonstrated the skills they learned and practiced. Through PPFuturo's project-based learning (PBL) approach youth engaged in active inquiry as they worked to answer questions relevant to their lives and futures. This intense self-managed learning program enabled the youth to rapidly gain critical skills and competencies, reshape their identities and create a positive and viable plan for their futures.

After successfully completing this intense learning program the youth embarked on the first-ever structured internship program in Mozambique for high school-aged young people. In pairs, youth spend two months working at a private company, government office or local non-profit under the guidance of an internship supervisor at the firm and as staff person from PPFuturo. By the end of the program, all but one of these youth (he moved with his family from Beira) who started this intense learning program completed it. All youth who were not attending public school when they joined the program had returned to school. None of the young women in the program became pregnant during the 10 month program period. All youth have gained quality skills, a very positive view of their future, the ability to think critically and communicate effectively with peers, adults and professionals.

With graduation they will leave the program and embark on a journey into adult hood. The program team and the youth themselves feel that they are much better prepared for the challenges and opportunities they will face and that they are now able to create positive futures for themselves and their families.



Fernando Tivane from the Youth Organization to Fight Drugs interviewing a candidate for PPFuturo



Applicants from the Goto neighborhood speaking with the Project Coordinator, Conceição Proença, while waiting to be interviewed

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